# NEW THEATER SEASON-MORE COOPERATIVE PLAYERS

## Five Houses Already Taken by More or Less Unprofessional Companies-Managers Glad to Forego Risks of Impresarioship

LTHOUGH the Provincetown Players and the powers of the Neighbor ood Playhouse have decided to retire for a year from all active part in providing New York with its drama, there will be no lack of the independent organizations. Some five metropolitan theaters have already been taken by cooperative or more or less unprofessional combinations of actors who are probably less inspired by the desire to demonstrate their infallibility to the managers than to make sure of a continuing job. Cooperative organizations of players last year did more to convince the public that the manager was indispensable to artistic as well as financial success than the most persistent ballyhooing on behalf of an impresario ever accom-plished in that direction.

Of course these organizations are founded more or less on the Theater Guild, which has been so successful that its product will certainly be found on other stages than the Garrick. There will always be playhouses available on other stages than the Garrick. There will always be play and the foreign for its productions. It is doubtful if there is any manager not willing to forego for this year the honors and risks of impresarioship for an assured rental. The period of wartime prosperity sadly inflated the number of New York's theaters. They must be got fid of somehow since the old disposition. to see everything has been superseded by a time of rigorous selection. One firm has been so fortunate as to let four of its theaters to a cinema company. At least, they must exclaim with a sign of relief: "They're off our hands!" quite as a rather desperate mother views the marriage of the least attractive of

her too numerous daughters.

It is this eagerness of the entrepreneurs to retrench that has made it so easy for the actors to acquire the field of their enterprises. The succession of mild disasters at the city theaters last spring—and some of the best of

batical year just now. The Provincetown Players earned the gratitude of
the public by introducing Eugene
O'Neill to the New York stage. He
popular appreciation of those seasons his participation in its repertoire the institution would have lost long ago devotion to the playwright to be obany importance that it ever had, served in the future plans of the Eng-Doubtless the powers of the theater would be disturbed by the difficulties of finding the necessary plays for another season.

First Man" was to be seen there last winter. There is some ground for the suspicion that only so much O'Neill as nobody else seemed to care for went. owever, to the theater in Grand treet. The American playwright was not necessary to its record. Apart from such efforts as "Great Catherine" and "The Queen's Enemies" there re-cently have been Galsworthy's "The Mob" and Granville Barker's "Madras But it seemed in spite of House." But it seemed in spice to such worthy achievements as if the wisdom of taking a year for breath was just as obvious in the case of one theater as the other.

Loraine may abandon his own plants to act in the chronicle play to join Mr. Cochran. Thus the interest in the theater of Shakespeare will not be altogether on our stage this season.

Both had evidently in the eyes of their directors come to be at least as important as the commercial theafers Arnold Daly to Be larger. It is a singular trait of the Arnold Daly, dramatic star, and Florthe artistic reformer, whether literary,
dramatic or musical, that he is not for
long satisfied by artistic success. Once
it is possible to present plays or operas in a way that meets every artistic
demand straight away there comes the
longing for financial success, even
profit. Of course the drain of loss
cannot be met for an indefinite period.

The theater.
Such an ambition never seemed to color the aims of the Theater Guild. RIV Yet there were signs that the two so- Budd. considered themselves quite as important as the most popular of the portant as the most popular of the regular playhouses. They were no longer content to introduce their plays which had not already "PROCTOR'S FIFTH AVENUE—"The Collage." Moddy and Duncan. open rivolry for the attention which playhouses appealing to a vastly more numerous clientele received from reviewers, Evidently they had become the process of the process quite aware of their own superiority. Whenever such a state of mind exists it is well for the victim to take a vacation always. It makes no difference whether he deals in art in any of its Says Applause Is many manifestations or in soap. He needs a rest when he feels like that.

fender. Waiter Hampden, Fritz Lieber and Robert Mantell have been occasional figures in the season's pano-

rama. No other manager has done so much, however, as Mr. Hopkins.

Now there is a promise of unusual devotion to the dramatist. This year will bring notably the joint debut here of David Belasco and David Warfield in "The Marchant of Vanice" which to the weather. The weather more than any other devotion to the dramatist. This year will bring notably the devotion to the dramatist. This year will bring notably the devotion to the dramatist. This year will bring notably the devotion to the dramatist. This year will bring notably the devotion of the dramatist. This year will bring notably the devotion of the dramatist. This year will be a seen to grass, and the first the direction of the theater. In fact, the greatest force between the fifteen years, in "The Pround in "The Merchant of Venice," which is the street destricted as the proposed will be traded as the proposed will be as the proposed will be also as the pro

of mild disasters at the city theaters last spring—and some of the best of the metropolitan playhouses were tutilized in this way—went far to prove how liberal managers are when it comes to taking in any sort of an artistic tenant that will help to pay the rent. "Drums of Jeopardy." "Salome" and the summer minstrels are almost forgotten—but not entirely, are almost forgotten—but not entirely. imaginative and vital, should fall a victim to a temporary indifference to Maybe it was just as wise for the two organizations which have ranked next to the Theater Guild in artistic importance to take the ease of a Sablead to further enterprises during the

continued to provide the literary dis-tinction that the programs possessed down to "The Hairy Ape." But for not lose their taste for the finest in The Neighborhood Playhouse could not specialize in O'Neill, although "The First Man" was to be seen there last "Much Ado About Nething." Marie winter. There is some ground for the Lohr wants to act Rosalind when she returns to the stage next winter as well as Katherine, while Phyllis Neilson-Terry, who reads Shakespeare to-day with a beauty that has not been suggested before since her distin-guished aunt was in her prime, will not only aet Rosalind, but Lady Macbeth and Beatrice. C. B. Cochran will make spectacular revivals of "Coriolanus" and "Henry V.," while Robert Loraine may abandon his own plans

### At Palace This Week

cently when she finished her starring engagement in "Round in 50" at the

During her six weeks stay at the big

Cranbourn street house Miss Tucker en-

the staff of the theater, as well as the

profit. Of course the drain of loss cannot be met for an indefinite period. On the other hand the scramble for a return other than artistic on the outlay of reformers is not more in reality than a desire to play manager. Often this ambition has done much to frustrate the aims of benevolent patrons of the theater.

Miss Walton will present a new dancing act, supported by Leon Leitrim, Maximilian Dolin and Milan Smoiln. Others can't."

Sophie cried and sobbed, "I just only of the running will be Mae and Rose Wilton, Jack Donohue, Joseph K. Watson, Vincent this ambition has done much to frustrate the aims of benevolent patrons of the theater.

Shaw and Lee, "Dreams" and "Bohemlan Life."

Tucker's dressing room.

A big initial "S" was engraved on the lid of the casket, and on the sides had been cut the signature of all the prin-

hemian Life."
The chief acts at other vaudeville houses follow:
RIVERSIDE—Eva Shirley and Ruth

EIGHTY-FIRST STREET - George

D. D. H., Joyline.
PROCTOR'S 125TH STREET.—William Edmunds and Dixie Four.

Governed by Weather will There Be More Shakespeare:

Since the performances of Shakespeare organized to mark the anniversary of the playwright's birth, there has been the barrenness predicted by farseeing impresarios at the time. Arthur Hopkins realized beautifully for John Barrymore's "Richard III.," and Robert Edmond Jones's too complete indulgence in his artistic ambitions offered in a production of "Macbeth," which brought fame to neither Mr. Hopkins, Llorel Barrymore nor Mr. Lores who was in reality to be the same tempo, will receive no applause same tempo.

Players in the New and Old Attractions in Broadway Theaters



### New Theatrical Season to Begin With Three Plays

# Pola Negri Coming

OLIVE TELL IN "WHISPERING WIRES"

FORTY-NINTH STREET

star, is coming to this country next month to make a series of Paramount pictures, it was announced by Jesse L. Lasky, first vice-president of the Famous Piayers-Lasky Corporation, when he arrived from Europe on the Majestic. "Through arrangements with the Hamilton Theatrical Corporation, to which she is under contract, we plan to have Miss Negri make a series of big, special pictures at our Long Island studio," said Mr. Lasky. "Her first production will be a modern American picture of an international theme, which was written especially for her by a written especially for her by a cameraman.

by the Russian Soviet Goranment, has Just arrived at Pe rograd, after a three ment of the Musch of the Musch of the Russian shows the will set out for the Kuznetsk Basin district in snowbound the mext few days it will set out for the Kuznetsk Basin district in snowbound the mext few days it will set out for the Kuznetsk Basin district in snowbound the mext few days it will set out for the Kuznetsk Basin district in snowbound the mext few days it will set out for the Kuznetsk Basin district in snowbound the mext few days it will set out for the Kuznetsk Basin district in snowbound the in sombound of the three classics from the repertoire of the Russian capital, and about 300 miles of gerty's Garter a three mext few days it will set out for the Kuznetsk Basin district in snowbound the in sombound the insombound of the Russian capital, and about 300 miles of gerty's Garter a three mext few days it will set out for the Kuznetsk Basin district in snowbound the mext few days it will set out for the Kuznetsk Basin district in snowbound the mext few days it will set out for the Kuznetsk Basin district in snowbound of the Russian capital, and about 300 miles of gerty's Garter and "Up in Mabel's Room" "Ladles" Night, "Garter and "Up in Mab

# Did You Hear?

About New Way of Making a Contract With a Great Musician?

HE latest engagement of a great

musical artist was recently accomplished in a way that

By LUCIEN CLEVES.

caused such a sensation among the managers that they are talking about it still. The services of this great virtuoso, who had not been heard in public for several years were much in demand. Every concert agent and manager naturally wanted to be associated with such a famous player. The mouth of more than one watered when it was announced that he was ready to play a season of concerts in this country. But the terms were not only unprecedented but of an exacting financial nature which few men in the only unprecedented but of an exacting financial nature which few men in the business of music could negotiate. In other words, the virtuoso was to receive in cash \$150,000 within three houss after the contract was signed.

Of course such a demand was never made before, but in view of the great interest attaching to his return the musician thought he could come through even such an exacting condition with success. One after another the well known impresarios of the concert field considered the proposition and found it too much for them. They could not quite meet the conditions. There was, however, no disposition to abata them in any degree. Finally a small concession was made to the manager who alone seemed to be seriously contemplating the proposal. In place of \$150,000 on the table within a few hours after the contract was signed the artist consented to accept \$135,000. On these terms the contract was finally signed. The manager who was able to meet such unprecedented conditions has not long been identified with the great virtuosi, and he reckoned that, difficult as the contract seemed, it would be worth the risk in establishing him in the profession. Thus it happened that a new record in musical contracts was made. The virtuoso received this unusual sum in advance and went rejoicing on his way to practice for the tour next season.

Miss Chatterton as Adapter.

When Ruth Chatterton appears with Henry Miller in Henri Bataille's "La Tendresse" the actress will be seen as something more than merely the interpreter of the leading role. It is said that Miss Chatterton made the English version of the play. But she did not go so far as to translate the title, as the piece will be acted under the original name. It is not yet settled where the two stars will appear, although it is not improbable that they will be seen at the Empire Theater.

Henry Miller's repertoire during his stock season in San Francisco last summer is destined to provide material for more than one theater in New York. Ina Claire will be seen at the Henry Miller Theater in Arthur Richmond's comedy "The Awful Truth," which was acted in San Francisco with Miss Chatterton in the leading role. Blanche Bates, who acted the play in the West, may later be seen in "Her Friend the King," which is said to provide a splendid role for her. A. E. Thomas, who founded the comedy on a story by Harrison Rhodes, is now at work on the piece, which is said to furnish for Miss Bates such a fine comedy role as she has not had in years.

Another Cehan Success.

Another Cohan Success.

Nothing but praise comes from Boston for "Little Nelly Kelly," which George M. Cohan has just presented there. Mr. Cohan this time wrote the words, text and music with no assistance. The heroine is a shopgirl, which enables Mr. Cohan to carry her into high society and travesty the popular mystery plays. Of course there had to be something about Irish names and this time the song is called "The Name of Kelly."

The piece will remain all summer in Boston and then come to a New York theater.

To Make Films Here

The W. K. Ziegfeld motion picture expedition, the first cinema concern to be permitted to penetrate into Siberia star, is coming to this country next by the Russian Soviet Government, has York farces was begun and led to such

TENNES THE THAT HILLS AND A COLOR WILL A

JOSEPHINE MCLEAN " HELEN OF TROY

NEW BRIGHTON

try Reaches Petrograd.